

The larva was found May 27 in grass at Washington, D. C. It was nearly full grown and spun in June. The moth emerged September 11th, the same season.

## NOTES ON THE HABITS OF *THECLA DAMON*.

By E. DAECKE.

Ascending the mountainous elevation ordinarily called the Orange Mountains a little distance above Montclair about the first part of May, we find quite a different flora from that of the valley. Arriving at the top we find plateau-like stretches sparsely covered with cedar bushes. The fresh verdure of the grass is here and there interrupted by large patches of rose-colored mountain pink. Columbine with its beautiful bell-shaped drooping flowers ornament bare rocks and moss-covered ledges. Dense patches of bluets and mountain cress (*Sisymbrium* and *Arabis*), here and there a little bunch of violets, the little creeping potentilla and the omnipresent *Leontodon taraxacum* scattered throughout the soft and flowery carpet to complete the picture which is one of the homes and haunts of *Thecla damon*.

This little *Thecla* is one of the best judges of fine scenery. The red cedar which is the food-plant of *Thecla damon* is common on many places in the Oranges, but *Thecla damon* will not be found wherever cedar abounds. I searched the Orange Mountains for miles and came across many groves of cedar but found *Thecla damon* only on one spot and I dare say the prettiest and most picturesque spot of the whole mountain range.

When I took this insect first I found it very difficult to capture. It would skip swiftly from flower to flower, and as soon as it found itself persecuted it would suddenly drop with folded wings into the grass, the green underside of its wings being a perfect protection from being discovered. Another time I visited this spot in search of *Thecla damon*. I failed to find a single specimen. It was the right season, a beautiful day and early in the afternoon. So I began to inspect the cedar bushes and found that this insect was hovering quite in abundance about the cedar tops, but out of reach of my net. In order to locate them I knocked against the cedar trees to scare them up, but only secured three or four specimens that day. Another time I came better prepared. I had a 4-foot extension to my net, but there

was no need for it that day, as they were skipping about quite low, partly on cedar, partly on potentilla and mountain cress. Another time I went there and found this little *Thecla* at his old tricks, eluding my net by dropping into the grass.

This habit, however, seems to be common with various *Thecla*. I noticed it especially on *Thecla niphon*, *titus*, *irus* and *augustus* all of which I took specimens on the same place. The only difference being that the latter *Thecla*, having brownish undersides, would select bare ground, rocks or dry twigs to drop thereon, and if not very carefully watched their whereabouts would be quite problematic to the pursuer.

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## CICINDELIDÆ OF MT. DESERT, MAINE.

BY EDW. DOUBLEDAY HARRIS.

A persistent search for Cicindelidæ in the Island of Mt. Desert, on the coast of Maine, was undertaken by the writer in August (8-28) of the past season. The field covered was that portion of the island south of a line drawn from Newport Mt. on the east coast to Seal Cove on the west. But four species were found, *longilabris*, *purpurea limbata* Klug, *vulgaris*, and a variety of *repanda*. The ground is not favorable for the preservation of the genus. Sea beaches are infrequent and contracted, and generally of a pebbly material, the coast being almost universally rocky, and often of precipitous cliffs. There are but few sand deposits in this part of the island, and the banks of the streams and ponds are heavily wooded.

*Longilabris* occurs nowhere plentifully, distributed along the roads, generally through woods, but where there is an abundance of sunlight. In a day's outing, it was possible to take from five to eight specimens. Out of fifty, taken during the period, there was but little departure from the type, either in color or markings. Perhaps ten per ct. were of a slightly brownish hue; three or four specimens had abnormally large humeral and apical spots, and in as many all markings were somewhat obscure. The species, as here observed, has a higher and longer flight than is usual with the genus, a distance of fifty to seventy feet being not uncommon. Its large size and dark color render pursuit easy. It is not wary, and once located on the ground can be readily taken with the net.